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FLOOR DEBATE

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I think that's all I have, if anyone else has any other questions. Read it? Okay, one other thing here. Since 1990, the noxious weed infections...infested acres have continued to decrease across the state. In 1990, counties reported 3,988,000 acres with infested or noxious weeds; in 2001 the counties reported 2 million, just about 2 million. So it's about half of what it was at one time. So I think it's being successful and maybe it's...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR KREMER: ...appropriate the counties do cut back and maybe it's appropriate that some time even the state noxious weed program would cut back some, but I think it's very important that we have something in place to address the problems that we do have before they would get out of hand. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kremer. Senator Beutler, on advancement.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, if you could be patient just a minute, I just wanted to read you a little bit out of the Environmental Trust statutes, because this bill really brings up a very vital tension that exists in the Environmental Trust on how it spends its money, and I think...I think it's important to understand it, whether you agree with it or not. But these statutes, remember, that I'm reading to you, are the very statutes that we passed before the Environmental Trust was voted upon by the people of the state, and this is what we represented to them that we would do with the Environmental Trust money. And here's the idea that I want to talk about, that the trust is not designed to substitute for state spending in environmental areas. It's not designed to support regulatory programs, for example, and the reason for that is quite plain. (Snaps fingers) Money would be gone just like that if that's what was intended. You know, \$9 million, \$10 million a year is a good chunk, but it's nothing compared to what we spend overall on regulatory programs related to the environment. And we'll be spending that much...that much money in a of couple years buying out water rights on LB 962, just in